



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: October 4, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 70,248.04
- Expense Warrant: \$ 187,565.14

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- We are about to go live with Electronic Permitting! All affected departments received training this week and the system is up and running. We'll be putting out an announcement on the website, and updating the site to more prominently display the opportunity to purchase permits and other items that are paid for outside of taxes. We're looking forward to the improvements in efficiency that this will bring, and making doing business with the Town easier for our residents.
- If you were looking for fresh road lines in the last week and noticed that they weren't there you are very observant! The company contracted to do that had a mishap in their scheduling which now means we're waiting until October 10th for this to happen.
- If you enjoy perusing the auctions that we post periodically to dispose of surplus property you are in luck. We have posted the sale of an old police cruiser, the Fire Chief's vehicle as well as the DPW Director's. The auction closes on October 15th. You can find the items on public surplus's website at:
<http://www.publicsurplus.com/sms/upton,ma/list/current?orgid=174131>.
- On Thursday evening Board of Health member Al Holman and I attended a meeting in Grafton hosted by the Town for a presentation on the Worcester Public Health Alliance. Worcester launched a regional effort two years ago to expand their services to five surrounding communities. They are interested in expanding their program to others. It is something to think about as they are able to offer a number of programs that are very proactive in terms of public health for residents. I expect it will spur some discussion with the Board of Health on what we offer and the direction for the department in the future.
- Work continues on the Town Hall project with the focus on the basement. The contractors continue to dig out the basement and get it ready for the next step of starting to install the items that will be below the basement floor and above. They are about ready to demolish the old boiler that was buried there and remove it from the building. They are also about to mobilize to build the elevator pit which is critical to the other parts of construction that will go around and above it. Exterior masonry work continues with installation of the helical ties that will give the building additional strength required under

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the latest building codes, and any masonry repairs required. The bat guano is also being removed at this time.

- We have submitted our Free Cash documentation to the Department of Revenue for the past fiscal year. We hope to have our certification by the date of the November Special Town Meeting.
- I met with the Library Director and Trustees Chair this week, along with staff from Vertex to go over the scope of work at the Library and the work in the basement. We are reviewing the budget to determine if the revised scope of work can be completed with the funds available, and to discuss the schedule and process. The Library Board will meet on Monday night to vote on whether to hire this firm, and whether they want to scale the project back from a budget perspective. We have a placeholder article for the warrant in case it is needed.
- There are several position openings that you should be aware of. Two heavy equipment operator positions in the Highway Division, and an internal posting for the Council on Aging Director. We are also exploring options to fill the vacant Animal Control Officer with the Board of Health.
- On Friday morning Jim Brochu and I attended a legislative breakfast in North Attleboro. It was a good exchange about issues facing the State and municipalities and priorities for next year. We pressed our concerns about the payment for ambulance runs to patients and the right to set our own rates, changes to OPEB, and changes at least on a small scale to the prevailing wage laws.
- A draft of what we hope is the final version of the earth removal permit has been completed and is being reviewed by Town Counsel and the owner. We will have that posted next week ahead of the next Selectmen's meeting on October 15th.